Air India Delhi-Surat-Delhi	4 flights/week
Kingfisher Airlines Ahmedabad-Surat-Ahmedabad	Daily

Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

(e) Part Terminal Building has been put into operation from 6.5.2007. The Terminal Building Phase-I shall be fully operational from April, 2008.

Facilities for physically challenged passengers

†1867. SHRI AJAY MAROO:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for additional facilities to the physically challenged air passengers at airports and in the aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details of such facilities;

(c) whether these facilities are being provided to physically challenged passengers with some charge or they are provided free of cost; and

(d) the agency responsible to ensure that facilities meant for the physically challenged air passengers are being provided to them or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and b) Yes, Sir. The facilities provided to the physically challenged air passengers, *inter-alia*, include ambulifts for embarkation, wheel chairs, special assistance for toilets, elevators, ramps in terminal and kerb side, parking slots in the car parking area etc.

(c) These facilities are provided to the physically challenged passengers without any charge. However, Airports Authority of India charges for ambulift facility as per their prescribed rates.

(d) Airlines, ground handling agencies and airport operators are responsible for providing these facilities.

Restructuring of ATC

1868. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air Traffic Controller (ATC) services, which is the most earning unit of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) may be hived off as a part of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

restructuring plan in order to give this job to specialized entities across the Indian airports;

(b) the progress in this regard and the number of companies which have shown interests in this venture; and

(c) how far this proposal would improve the safety of air operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) In terms of Chicago Convention, the managment of air space is the sovereign responsibility of the Central Government. In our country, this task has been assigned by the Government to Airports Authority of India (AAI). The Government are considering corporatisation of ANS services consisting of ATC and CNS Wings of AAI by creating a separate Government owned Corporation or a wholly owned subsidiary of AAI in the background of the following:

(i) Recent growth in Civil Aviation has underlined the need to improve ANS services by providing undivided attention.

(ii) A number of private and joint venture companies have entered airport infrastructure in the country. AAI is also an airport operator. In case the ANS remains within the exclusive domain of AAI, there could be conflict of interests with other operators.

(iii) International trend is towards corporatisation of ANS Services. Accordingly, AAI have engaged a Consultant to advise in the matter. The report of the Consultant is awaited and no final decision has been taken.

Development of airports by M/s GMR

1869. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to close Begumpet Airport at Hyderabad in view of opening of new Greenfield airport at Shamshabad by M/s GMR-led consortium;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the capital investment made by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in Begumpet Airport during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether M/s GMR, presently operating Delhi Airport, have objected to the proposed new airport at NOIDA and sought compensation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government of India (GoI) has entered into a Concession Agreement (CA) with M/s Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL) for construction and development of a new international airport at Shamshabad near Hyderabad. In the CA, the GoI has agreed to close commercial operations at the existing Begumpet airport once the new airport becomes operational. However, the existing Begumpet airport would continue to remain operational for general aviation, defence purposes, national emergencies etc.